

The Honolulu Advertiser

Established July 2, 1856

THURSTON TWIGG SMITH *President & Publisher*
 GEORGE CHAPLIN *Editor-in-Chief*
 BUCK BUCHWACH *Executive Editor*
 JOHN GRIFFIN *Editorial Page Editor*
 MIKE MIDDLESWORTH *Managing Editor*

Friday, February 25, 1977

Turner & the CIA

Admiral Stansfield Turner was unanimously confirmed as Central Intelligence Agency Director yesterday — and everyone should agree that, one way or another, he is a man to watch.

President Carter and others have praised Turner not just as an exceptional admiral but also as a special type of brilliant and innovative public official.

The President has even called him "the next George Marshall," a highly flattering reference to the World War II Army chief of staff who later served as secretary of state.

As for his views, Turner has rejected the narrow idea that the relative strength of the U.S. and the Soviet Union can be reliably measured by adding up the number of ships. He has also said he would resign as CIA director if ever given a presidential order he felt was illegal or immoral.

MOST OF the real concern has centered on Turner's past and continuing ties with the U.S. military which has been his career to date and probably will be later.

Few would automatically rule out a military figure as CIA director. Five of the 11 men to hold the job so far were generals or admirals. But too much has happened in the CIA's past record to use that as justification for the future.

It seems unfortunate that Carter and the Senate allowed Turner to continue on active duty as a four-star admiral. There may later be

questions whether he is looking forward to his next job, possibly chief of naval operations or chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The point is not just one about old school and service ties and military attitudes. It's that part of the CIA's job is to provide intelligence estimates that are an alternative to those offered by other agencies, especially the Pentagon and its intelligence services.

Turner will not only be head of the CIA; in that job he will also be Carter's top coordinator of the diverse branches of the intelligence community.

Finally, we would note that in his Senate confirmation hearings Turner said he would not rule out the possibility that the CIA might use news reporters, academics and clergymen to play roles in covert activities. In our view, American journalists, missionaries and scholars have enough difficulty abroad without facing suspicions they are also spies.

WE ARE AMONG those who have recognized CIA past achievements (along with the shocking flaws) and the need for continuing U.S. intelligence activity. Turner may well be the top-quality person needed to control the troubled agency.

But Senator Inouye and others with power and influence in congressional intelligence watchdog groups have a continuing job that must be ranked among the most vital in Washington.